

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

Vol. III No. 3

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 1988

Sunnydale Tenants

Sound Off

By Pat Christensen

Furious, frightened, and frustrated were the emotions bouncing around the room at the Sept. 13 meeting of the Sunnydale Tenants Association. Living under a state of siege, Sunnydale tenants claim they are victims of drug dealer's violence 24 hours a day.

Parking lot and street lights are shot out. Fuses are removed from circuit breakers cutting off power to the apartments. Dealers threaten possible informers with violence or vandalism. Community meetings are invaded by spies. Fire bombings and shootings are commonplace.

That's Sunnydale today, and the tenants want action from the Housing Authority, police and the mayor. They want to return Sunnydale to a peaceful, safe community.

At the tenants' meeting, Sgt. Herman Jones, SFPD, defended the Police Department's availability to deal with Sunnydale by saying that there have been no new officers hired in three years. However, there is a new tactical squad patrolling

see *Tenants*, page 10



In the office of Mayor Art Agnos discussing community concerns are representatives of San Francisco neighborhood newspapers. Grapevine editor Pat Christensen is seated in the corner next to Agnos.

Pipeline to mayor's office established via meetings with newspaper group

The new San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association met with Mayor Art Agnos in his office for an informal lunch on Sept. 12.

Some of the issues discussed were:

(San Francisco Times) Do you regard graffiti as a serious problem in San Francisco? If so, what is the best way to deal with it?

(The Street) Is the mayor's office interested in

finding a better solution to the problem of vehicular residents rather than the imposition of MPC97 (Municipal Police Code which states that a person cannot sleep in his automobile after 10:00 a.m.)

(The Grapevine) What can the City do to take control of people permitted to live in public housing? How do we get rid of troublemakers?

(The Marina) Has City Hall any plans to counter the powerful north counties' lobby and their proposals for

a second deck on the Golden Gate Bridge and a widening of Doyle Drive which will further exacerbate an impossible traffic problem in the district?

(New Bernal Journal) How will you fill the gap; left by the defunding and elimination of MISY, the Mayor's In-Service Youth Program?

With due respect to the mayor and the problems he

see *Mayor*, page 11

Voters face tough ballot come November 8

The city's alphabet soup

By R. Michael Hart

The 24 propositions on the Nov. 8 ballot that concern San Francisco, and 29 that will be determined by all of the voters in the state, are bound to impact our ways of life. The Grapevine looks at a handful of them in this issue

and will look at the candidates next month.

Proposition A - libraries

San Francisco's Prop. A calls for the city to "incur a bonded indebtedness of \$109.5 million to pay the cost of additions to and improvement of a main public library and branch libraries."

Advocates of this proposition say that the city's current main library is too crowded with books and we

need to build a new, larger main branch. Opponents say that Prop. A is a "bloated" measure and is unnecessary, stating that the land on which the main branch now stands will allow for the needed expansion at a much lower cost.

Proposition E - open space

Prop. E asks if the people of San Francisco will extend the Park and Open Space Fund for another 15 years.

The purpose of this fund is to acquire and maintain neighborhood park space
see *Election*, page 10

Valley roundtable looks toward tomorrow

By Pat Christensen

Spirited discussion and planning were the results of the second meeting of the Koshland roundtable. The *Grapevine* reports:

Community Boards

Rita Adrian, Community Boards director, led off discussion by reporting that Community Boards, the conflict resolution program founded in Visitacion Valley about 12 years ago, has a new training starting and has a received a grant to help deal with school related cases.

Teachers from Visitacion Valley Elementary and Middle Schools, E. R. Taylor and Alvarado Elementary Schools may use Community Boards for referral of children's problems.

Also many social workers refer cases to Community Boards heading off bad family situations which might go to court - but are probably better resolved through Community Boards' techniques.

Geneva Towers Rec Program

Vernon Long, recreation director at Geneva Towers spends much of his time now

at the beginning of the school year playing "truant officer." However, Vernon reports some heartening response from his kids. The young people who come to do their homework with him are increasing in number; Long Shots Youth Club will be starting up very soon for kids between 7 and 15 years, and the Tutorial Program has interest from families, but needs some money to grow.

Community Center

The Community Center reports director Julie Kavanagh is about to embark on its United Way Campaign receiving visitors from many major corporations.

In addition, thanks to support from Community Music Center, the Community Center will offer music classes for both adults and children almost immediately. Kavanagh also reports that the U. S. Navy will begin a Sea Cadets and Navy League Cadets program where children ages 11-14 (Navy League) and 14-18 (Sea Cadets) learn navigation, seamanship, and other navy skills. Watch for recruitment announcements in the future.

School Programs

Anne Kaartunen reports that the Middle School Gym Program has two directors and few kids. Several reasons cited for this apparent lack of interest are that transportation to and from home is not in place; the yard is not lit for safety, and there is no emergency phone in the Middle School gym. Perhaps also, more kids need to know about the program and how they can participate.

Anne also reported that through the Junior San Francisco Alive program, taggers and the Community Clean-Up program have painted out lots of graffiti. When Anne and the kids got started cleaning up and painting out, she heard one child say to another, "Here's your initials on this bench! Why don't you paint it out?"

Within a short time the kids painted all the benches in Visitacion Valley Park along with a store front and a couple of houses.

Camp Fire Clubs

Camp Fire will begin after school in October with children attending 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades on Tuesdays, while 4th, 5th, and 6th grade youngsters will have their turn on Thursdays. Anne is recruiting old, former Camp Fire members as helpers.

Wednesdays are devoted to mural projects for the Family School bungalows and at the Community Center.

MaxiCare

From the medical/health component, Touissant Streat, M.D. expressed discouragement as far as MediCare's ability to serve Visitacion Valley's medically overlooked population. Bill Britton, owner of the medical building on Leland Avenue at Peabody is trying to sell or lease to a party which would assume responsibility for the total building and then sub-lease to smaller tenants, like MaxiCare.

MaxiCare has open enrollment coming up, but third party payments and the small number of members

who pay into the plan each month don't meet the economic needs of the group.

Issues of Concern

Next the roundtable members assessed the "Issues of Concern." The results of a consensus of opinion were that (1) breaking the cycle of negative living was most important which included the questions of how to locate and involve problem solvers, resource people and have them become a part of the community. Then following in order of priority were the following:

Education and literacy, health maintenance, affordable rents for residents and leases for businesspeople, and lack of safe transportation. In addition, other major problems were lack of reliable and dependent volunteers, publication of resources, communication of needs and successes.

Struggling with solutions

The roundtable came then to the hard part of the discussion - solutions. The solutions suggested were (1) to research and publish a resource directory, (2) to describe existing programs in the valley and include the demographics of who is participating, (3) produce neighborhood-based workshops offering information and skills training on subjects of interest to the community at large, much like the highly successful English-as-a-second-language (ESL) classes given at the Community Center.

Fourth, neighborhood job skills training and placement programs including youth job training, (5) to offer a body-building program to encourage self-esteem and health, (6) to cultivate, nurture and harvest a corps of volunteers who would build community strength and vitality for all the above programs.

City artist comes to valley

Have you always enjoyed drawing or thought you would but circumstances just haven't permitted it? Well, the Visitacion Valley Senior Center is now offering free art

classes with Tamara Vargas, a first-prize winning artist at the 1987 San Francisco International Fair and exposition among other awards and exhibitions.

Happy Halloween!

Oops...

The GRAPEVINE apologizes to the Coyuse Camp Fire Club which is NOW the largest Camp Fire Club in California. Our typing finger slipped. Instead of typing "now", we typed "not." Big difference! Congratulations to Coyuse. You are a mega-club!

painting class

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Activist boasts Valley roots

By Pat Christensen

Every problem and every opportunity present in urban America can be found in Visitacion Valley.

Sol Alinsky, father of grassroots organizing

When Mike Miller, community organizer, came to Visitacion Valley in 1972 at the behest of the Rev. Bill Smith, then director of the Community Center, and with the blessing of a grant from the San Francisco Foundation, it was in every sense a homecoming.

Sunnydale tenants had come to the realization that in order to accomplish some of their significant goals they needed allies for power. They wanted a public broad-based organization which would require everyone to be accountable. Miller, a veteran of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) which grew out of the battle for civil rights in the '60s, and fresh from organizing victories with the Mission Coalition, Bayview Hunters Point Joint Housing Committee and similar fights in the Western Addition and South of Market, was a logical choice to come to Sunnydale.

As a child, Miller had lived in the Sunnydale project from

1942 to 1954. He attended Visitacion Valley and Guadalupe elementary schools, Denman Junior High and graduated from Balboa High School.

"In those days, Sunnydale had an on-site management office in the community center. I went to kindergarten there." recalls Miller. "Out back of the center was an elaborate garden equipment shed where tenants could check out tools at no charge. People had well-kept lawns and flowerbeds then.

"I used to check out a lawn mower on Saturdays and mow lawns for 50 cents. That's how I made my spending money. We used to have caretakers around, staff people, who helped the tenants and kept the common areas clean.

"I do remember as a kid I was embarrassed at being a 'project kid'. In junior high I didn't tell people I lived in Sunnydale. I told them I lived in Visitacion Valley. I wanted a house with a garage and a playroom like my school friends had.

"Ron Pavales and Russell Prince were my two best friends. After school we would go to Visitacion Valley Community Center. Bob Desky was the sponsor of our



Community activist Mike Miller

postage stamp club, and I was an avid collector. I was also in the band.

"I thought Florence Friedman was a big, tall woman. Even after I was grown and returned to the valley to help organize All People's Coalition, I still had the impression that Miss Friedman was tall.

"When I was in high school, I played on the St. James' basketball team."

Miller says he was raised in a AFL/CIO family where labor movement values of economic and social justice and racial equality were affirmed. Even though he rebelled in high school, he

never let go of those basic beliefs, and when he went to University of California, Berkeley, the common practices of racial discrimination in housing and services brought him back to his roots. Elected to the Student Executive Committee, he resigned over a series of issues and ran again with a slate of liberal candidates. They didn't win that election, but they doubled the size of the electorate and eventually formed a campus political party called SLATE, which advocated for lower textbook prices, better food services, relaxation of rules affecting women only, and spoke out

see Miller, page 9

Tina Kaddoura

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Letters, letters, letters, letters

Dear Editor,

While on the campaign trail last Thursday, I participated in Candidates Night at the Bayview-Hunter's Point Democratic Club. The homeporting of the Missouri is expected to benefit the Bayview Hunter's Point area. I was appalled to hear Harry Britt, the present prospect for President of the Board, misrepresent to the club that the money required for dredging to accommodate the Missouri could be used for welfare and other good causes. It should be made clear to the public and to Mr. Britt that the dredging money comes from the port fund and not from the general fund. It should be made clear that the port fund can only be used for port purposes and no other purposes.

It appears to me that if the Supervisors don't know the facts about the Missouri, they are hardly in a position to speak for or against it. We need supervisors to be honest with the public. It is indeed time for a change on the Board.

Sincerely yours,
Harriet Ross

Dear Editor,

This note is to inform you strongly object to the plans to build a four story apartment house at Sunnydale Avenue and Bayshore.

We already have too much traffic on our narrow street, too much noise and far too much parking on sidewalks and driveways.

Thank you,
Benny McKelvey

Dear Editor,

This is to let you know I am strongly opposed to the planned building of four story apartment house at Sunnydale and Bayshore. What with buses, trucks and heavy traffic on a narrow street, we can not hear anymore.

Sincerely,
Jerry Strickland

Dear Editor,

Just a quick word of thanks to the GRAPEVINE for helping us get the word out about our employment services for the physically handicapped.

I'm happy to report that after this month's GRAPEVINE hit the streets, our agency received a healthy number of calls from GRAPEVINE readers who were interested in our services.

One of our jobs here is to help the bay area's physically handicapped find and maintain jobs, and we're able to do that successfully with the GRAPEVINE'S help. So again, thanks, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
**Rose Resnick
Executive Director
Rose Resnick Center
for the Blind and
Handicapped**

Dear Editor,

Have been enjoying receiving the GRAPEVINE paper, thank you so much, it makes me feel like I'm still in San Francisco and part of the center. I have so many pleasant memories of the good times I had there and also my two children enjoyed the activities so much.

I am enjoying myself here now, took a long time. Have met many nice people, I belong to Senior Club at church one mile from me. Have a Saturday morning get together 10-12 and a pot luck dinner at club house once a month, plus doings on all holidays. My best friend who lives in a mobile park one mile from me and others get together at each others homes and we play Pinochle. I miss my friends in valley so much, and often wish I hadn't left but too late now, I try and make the best of it as is. Thanks for the papers.

Sincerely,
Henrieta Hermly

Dear Editor

Thank you so much for publishing information about our volunteer and respite programs in your July and September issues.

The Saturday Respite Center has been a success so far, thanks to our volunteers recruited through such articles as yours. As you may be aware, there is a volunteer shortage in the bay area right now, so it is critical that we hold training sessions for new volunteers regularly.

Once again your efforts on behalf of our programs for the elderly are much appreciated.

Sincerely,
**Sandi Peters
Catholic Charities**

Dear Editor:

San Francisco has a critical parking shortage - the number one complaint expressed by most of our residents. Proposition T on the November ballot will give the parking crisis the priority it deserves.

If passed, Proposition T will require all funds collected from parking meters and parking garages to be spent on the creation of new parking garages in our neighborhoods.

The parking shortage is now critical because we did not anticipate the crushing need for parking and dedicate funding in time to meet the demand. That's what Proposition T is about - parking revenues should be dedicated to meeting our existing critical needs, and planning for our future.

With the new hikes in parking rates, we will generate \$10.6 million this year. We can continue to dedicate the minimum amount required by law - \$4.6 million (about one new garage a year) - or, establish a simple rule with Proposition T: all parking revenues must be used to create new parking spaces in our neighborhoods.

Please join me and vote yes on Proposition T.

Sincerely,
**Bill Maher
Board of Supervisors**

Meet Ramon Cortines San Francisco Supt. of Schools

Superintendent Ramon Cortines will meet with Visitacion Valley parents at Visitacion Valley Elementary School, 55 Schwerin St. on Wednesday, Nov. 5 beginning at 5 p.m.

This meeting offers valley parents a rare opportunity to talk directly to the administrator of our public school system.

One of the superintendent's educational goals is to increase parent and community participation. In these forums, Cortines will discuss the \$354 million budget, test scores, Proposition A implementation and other topics as well as answering questions from the audience. Translators will be available.

Please complete the coupon below and return it to Visitacion Valley Elementary School, 55 Schwerin St., Attn: Anne Kaartunen.

_____ I will attend the meeting on Nov. 5 with Superintendent Ramon Cortines and would like an answer to the following question.

_____ I cannot attend the meeting, but would like his response to the following question. (Answers will be printed in the Nov. GRAPEVINE)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____

Little Hollywood Reports

Little Hollywood Improvement Association

By Don Bartone

Speakers

Guest speakers at our September meeting were Harriet Ross, candidate for Supervisor, Supervisor Tom Hsieh and Captain John Gleeson.

Supervisor Tom Hsieh visited Little Hollywood for the first time in September; however, he was instrumental in helping our association get the Korean Church for our meeting place. Now he is interested in learning what else we need in Little Hollywood.

Police Blotter

Capt. Gleeson will be asked to discuss the problems which exist during any major rock concert or big event. As we residents know trying to get in or out of the neighborhood during a ballgame is next to impossible and the police don't seem to care about

the fact that not everyone wants to go to Candlestick, but they insist on forcing us to go to the ballpark and not allowing us to go to our homes. they tell us that they are "just following orders" which is an excuse for not wanting to get off their duffs and direct traffic.

Issues

Plans to put 46 houses with live-in units in the rear on Hester Avenue and Bayshore Blvd. were discussed at the September and will be reported in the November GRAPEVINE. There seems to be another bad scheme to overcrowd our neighborhood with commercial-industrial businesses disguised as homes.

Thank yous

We want to thank Gene Herson of Sanitary Fill for cleaning up Tunnel Road.

Victories

The Airport Commission has finally installed a sound monitor in the 300 block of Lathrop Avenue to keep tabs on all of the planes that fly over our neighborhood. Excessive noise will be registered and dealt with. Many of you probably have already noticed the decrease in air traffic noise. Thanks again to supervisors Jim Gonzalez, Tom Hsieh and Bill Maher who set up a special committee to deal with this problem.

Little Hollywood Reports will appear in the GRAPEVINE monthly. Since the GRAPEVINE is delivered to all Little Hollywood homes, we hope this merger will encourage all valley residents to attend our meetings and work closely together.

Special guide to Small Claims Court

The office of Assemblywoman Jackie Speier (D-San Mateo/San Francisco counties) is offering free guides to help persons understand the small claims court system.

"Some people think that going to court is difficult or frightening, but it really isn't," Speier said. Many problems that people haven't been able to resolve through other means can be decided in the small claims process. The small claims court system was created for persons to use when other efforts to resolve disputes have been unsuccessful," Speier added.

The "Small claims court plaintiff's booklet" and the "small claims court defendant's booklet" are designed to help persons who are considering suing or have been sued in small claims court. The information addresses the more frequent questions people have about the process and explains a plaintiff's or defendant's rights and responsibilities.

For a free copy of this brochure call the office at 415-871-4100 or drop a note to assemblywoman Jackie Speier at 510 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 107, South San Francisco, 94080

Single-family housing planned for Gatti site

By Gerry Galvan

The consortium of businessmen which purchased the four-acre property from the Gatti family in Visitacion Valley plan to break ground next year on a largescale home construction project.

Blueprinted to rise up on the lot are 54 three-bedroom houses which are designed to meet the needs of middle-class families wanting to live in the area.

Liberal estimates made by developers and architects have placed the construction timetable on a 10-month to one-year period.

If all goes well 54 units would be completed

by June 1990, or even earlier.

The new owners of the property, JFK City Development Inc., have acquired the design and architectural services of the Russell Group of San Francisco.

Financing will be provided by Alliance Mortgage.

Also heavily involved in this development are Frank Borges and Associates, a Santa Rosa firm which specializes in governmental liaison land use permits.

The San Francisco Environmental Protection Agency will start testing soil samples to determine if the area has toxic problems resulting from the previous

owner's use of pesticides during their 60 years of nursery operation on the property.

Such soil testing could be just a bureaucratic formality which city hall could easily waive, but considering the nature of the business which the Gatti family had been in the testing will be conducted.

Developers and designing architects assure that everything is being done to comply with all San Francisco city codes. There are two steps to take before application to build houses will be approved.

First, the soil testing; and second the report to city hall authorities on the condition of the soil.

What could delay the start of actual building is the considerable sized and well-preserved three-bedroom house on the property. Completely vacant now, it was once used by the Gatti family for an office. A city code discourages property owners from demolishing any house that is considered to be habitable.

The developers and designers have promised that, despite the enormity of the project, there won't be any rezoning in the area. Borges and Nguyen sounded an invitation to leaders of the community to meet with them and express their views on the project.

see Gatti, page 9

CENTERVOICE

By Julie Kavanagh

Visitation Valley is on the media's mind a lot lately, but what's happening here is not new. Drugs and violence and vandalism are but symptoms of a larger problem that is not just in the valley, but all over our country. "Officials" can't help, because they have the same disease. It's not apathy, it's fear.

Fear, we don't have enough help (money, men, time). Fear, the residents won't cooperate. Fear, the courts won't uphold our actions!

Citizens have fears as well: Fear, the police don't come when we call! Fear, the landlord won't evict drug dealers. Fear, if we testify, the dealers will kill us. Fear, innocent bystanders are shot.

Taken by themselves, these are all well founded fears. Fear is good, it is our body's warning to ourselves: avoid trouble and live. It can also be bad, if we allow ourselves to be paralyzed by it, it can be another kind of death.

The drug users, drug dealers, vandals and other violent persons seem to have no fear for the most part.

They go among others of their kind, and subject their bodies not only to the death that drugs offer, but to the violent attacks of other dealers and users around them. We, who have normal fears, are in danger, true but they are in many times more danger because they pursue violence, they live with weapons and with other people who feel no fear. Sooner or later, violence will find them. What is to stop them from killing? What is to stop them from dying? More importantly, how can they be given the gift of life, the desire to live?

How can we convince these young members of our family that we truly care about them? That we are as concerned about their well being as we are about our own? What convinced them that we didn't care in the first place?

We have to be mindful of the example we are giving them. We must be real family. We must be there for our family All of the time (unlike "officials" and other outsiders), and we must rely on on ourselves to initiate solutions.

True, we need money and help from officials, but they

can't come in from out there and solve our problems for us, we have to be there at their sides. What do we want them to do for us? Whatever it is, they must do it with and for us, not to us. That means we have to take the lead, we have to tell them what we need.

To be healthy and to stay alive and to really live, fear must be harnessed, used and controlled. To make the problem more manageable, shine a light on it! Call the police anonymous tip line every time you see a crime. The number is 553-1396.

Call TV stations, the newspaper and ask for coverage of recurring problems. Invite an organizer from the SAFE project into your block to help learn about security and safety. Hold all neighborhood meetings at an early hour on Saturday or Sunday, so that the neighborhood dealers sleep through it and forget to come.

Go to the Public Hearing on Social Services on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 170 Otis St. and tell the Social Services Commission how they can help you and your neighbors. Or, write them at the same address, or call them at 557-6431. If your building isn't safe from fires, call the Fire Inspectors at 861-8000, extension 310 and ask for an unannounced inspection. Call yourself, then get three neighbors to call and ask them to get three more.

One call from an ordinary citizen can do more than 10 calls from the church or the community center or any other organization. Sure, we continue to call, but everyone must do so, or we'll get nothing but excuses.

Above all, get involved in positive things. These are things that are far from the world of violence and drugs, but that have a very real effect on the community, that crowd out the pusher, the pimp and the thief by shining light into a community!

Take an interest in a kid. Spend time with that kid every day, doing simple things together like sports, walks and talk. Clean up your block together. Paint out graffiti, either with the Jr. Alive Club, or in groups of your own.

A community comment

Dear Parents,

In one way or another your child has been involved in our children's activities this summer at Valley Baptist Church. We have a great deal of interest in the children of Visitation Valley as the future of this community will rest upon their shoulders. We want to continue to provide activities that will offer a positive influence in their young lives.

The following is our schedule of fall activities: "Parents Night Out" (ages 5-11) Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec.2, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

We will provide child care one Friday evening per month. During this time we will have games, crafts, a movie, and work towards preparing a Christmas program for the parents.

The Children's Christmas program will be on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.. Parents, friends, and relatives are invited.

Sunday School - every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Valley Baptist Church and Geneva Towers conference room followed by worship services at Valley Baptist Church.

We also would like to provide special field trips, parties, and other fun activities throughout the fall. As we schedule these, we will inform you of them.

We invite your input on how we at Valley Baptist Church can better serve the children of our community. We also would appreciate your help in any of our activities as well.

We encourage your child's participation in all of the above programs.

Sincerely yours,
Roy McIntyre
Christian Social Ministries Intern
Valley Baptist Church

Sew up a storm

San Francisco Community College Center is offering a free dressmaking and tailoring class on Thursdays from 9:30 a. m. to 3 p.m. at 50 Raymond Avenue.

According to instructor Helen Rago, anyone interested is welcome to enroll by simply attending a session. Classes will continue until December 18.

The Emergency Family Care Program

Children's Home Society of California

The Emergency Family Care Program provides a range of home-based services to San Francisco families under stress or in crisis situations. Our goal is to improve the quality of family life while reducing the number of temporary and long term out-of-home child placements.

Short term, in-home intensive services are provided by specially trained family care workers in conjunction with professionally trained staff.

SERVICES

Services are scheduled to meet the specific needs of each family and can include:

FAMILY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- teaching effective parenting skills
- modeling appropriate infant and child care
- teaching household management
- nutritional guidance
- linking families with other community resources

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- serving as parental substitutes when a parent is hospitalized or jailed
- assisting with housekeeping tasks when a parent is temporarily disabled
- crisis intervention when children are at risk of abuse or neglect

OUR REFERRAL PROCEDURE

Referrals are accepted from families, neighbors, relatives, schools, agencies and organizations.

Families who qualify for our program:

- are residents of the city of San Francisco
- have at least one child under 14 years of age
- have a consenting parent available

431-2055

Referrals are accepted Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Office: 425 Divisadero #200 San Francisco CA 94117

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Nominate the winners now

The San Francisco Foundation is accepting nominations through Oct. 31 for the annual Robert C. Kirkwood Award. This \$1,000 award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a history of extraordinary contributions to community life in the Bay Area.

Nominees may represent outstanding achievement in the fields of public service (elected or appointed government officials, salaried or unsalaried) or community service (professionals or volunteers who have made

contributions in such areas as health, youth, culture, environment or other publicly or privately supported community service). The focommittee will select a winner who exhibits qualities of proven leadership, vision, cooperation with others and generosity of spirit and time.

The Kirkwood Award was established by Mr. Kirkwood's friends following his death in 1964

Nominations must be submitted by Oct. 31, 1988. For nomination forms or more information call The San Francisco Foundation's Awards office at (415) 543-0223 ext. 26.

SPEAKING OF HEALTH



Flu shot time

By Jacqueline Wasserman, R.N.

With the changing weather and fall turning into winter soon, the flu season will be upon us. Although some strains of flu cannot be avoided, each year a flu vaccine is available to prevent or lessen the severity of a flu attack. A typical flu illness results in fever, sore throat, lethargy, muscle aches and nonproductive cough.

Not everyone needs a flu vaccine although one may choose to have one. People who are at high risk for complications from a lower respiratory infection and are candidates for the vaccine are: 65 years of age or older, diabetics and people with kidney disease, heart, respiratory or immune disease, chronic severe anemia (as in sickle cell disease), health care workers with exposure to the flu,

children with cystic fibrosis or on long term aspirin therapy and nursing home residents.

As stated, anyone who wants a vaccine can reduce their chances of catching the flu. The vaccine does not offer protection against all strains. If you or your child has asthma, which is fairly common in our clinic, we advise a flu shot. Check with your health practitioner to see of this year's flu vaccine is available. It can make the difference between a healthy winter season or a miserable one.

Speaking of the flu, did you know that chicken soup is actually a good remedy for colds and flu? A study showed that there are enzymes in chicken soup that help resolve a cold. It's often been a joke that chicken soup is good. Now it's proven that it actually helps! So grab a pot, a chicken, add water, a carrot, potato and onion, a little salt and pepper and you have a cold remedy.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

By Anne Kaartunen

One-third of our community has become hostage: to crime, violence, disrepair and an unhealthy environment. Almost daily, one hears or witnesses altercations, vandalism, physical/emotional abuse, theft, and littering.

This area is composed of the Geneva Towers, the Geneva Terrace Homes and the Sunnydale Projects. The majority of these residents are trying to live a decent life, providing for their families and maintaining their property. However, there is a solid group of 'unknowns', who are consistently terrorizing these residents. Drug dealers, pimps, their's, all of who are now recruiting our youngsters to do wrong.

The residents of this area have voiced their frustration, anger and concern, along with suggested solutions to city agencies, but to no avail. Their messages have been lost in the "labyrinth" of city bureaucracy. City officials need 'eye to eye' contact in the community of their constituents, who are asking for help. See the situations as they are.

The natural leadership from within the community will blossom, if the city would follow through on it's "vote getting rhetoric." We need honest and consistent, visible support form the city, be it agency accountability or innovative programs.

Some suggestions: get rid of the dumpsters on

Sunnydale Avenue. They are used by outsiders and they are a health and safety hazard. Have monthly police community relations meetings in Sunnydale. Locate the Mayor's community office here. Start a training program for "Child-care" workers, establish GED program, Community College 'skills center' satellite in the McLaren School, train and hire from the community Public Housing Security Patrol, using trained child-care workers, establish 'respite' care for kids (one unit, every 10 rows of the project), resume park and rec center at the Sunnydale Housing facility.

The people will help themselves, if the city adds its know-how and support.

Recent happenings: The weekend of Sept .17 and 18, the Visitacion Valley playground was trashed (evidence: six empty cases of beer, wine cooler and whiskey bottles, overturned garbage drums and burnt boxes). The elementary school was vandalized, broken windows, rocks and more graffiti. Information regarding these incidents would be appreciated. Are the neighbors "watching?"

Community Boards building has a new owner. We hope that they will let this organization stay and not raise the rent. The building housing the library has a new owner, again we hope they do not raise rents and cause small businesses to relocate.

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Miller,
from page 3

against apartheid and nuclear issues and compulsory R.O.T.C.

After graduation, Miller was awarded a Woodrow Wilson fellowship to Columbia University in New York City where he became involved with the public housing authority at LaGuardia Housing project and a career as a community organizer became fixed.



"I do remember as a kid I was embarrassed at being a 'project kid.' "

In the early years of the '70s when Miller was invited to Visitacion Valley by the Sunnydale Tenants Association, he had years of experience in grassroots organizing and training of organizers in the style born in Chicago by the master of grassroots organizing, Sol Alinsky.

Sunnydale had received a grant from the San Francisco Foundation and decided to share it with the rest of the valley in order to gain needed power. John May, then director of the foundation,

agreed that if that's what the tenants wanted to do, it was o.k. with the foundation.

Miller, the Rev. Smith, and Rev. Tom Lacey, pastor of Our Lady of Visitacion Church, supported the idea along with other community and church leaders. It was decided to have a two day organizing workshop at a country campsite. The workshop was so successful that a second retreat took place which Florence Friedman attended.

"The workshops led to a meeting at Visitacion Valley Elementary School," recalls Miller. "The auditorium was packed. Some people opposing our efforts picketed out front, but that night All People's Coalition was born - even in the face of opposition from the Valley's 'old guard'. Block grant money was received from Mayor Alioto, and we began organizing Geneva Towers Tenants Association.

"Tony Fazio was instrumental in getting that association going, and I guess the recreation program which was begun then is still going strong under Vernon Long.

"APC was an extraordinary coming together of the diversity of the valley. We had people from Geneva Towers, Sunnydale, Geneva Terrace, high valley, low valley homeowners and renters. We even went over

to Marin County and picketed Eugene Burger's house to make our demands known. (Eugene Burger's organization managed the towers then and still does.)

"I remember Eddie Wofford, a wonderful man, who had been very standoffish about associating with the Geneva Towers people. He joined the picketing of Burger's house, and I asked him how come?"

He said, 'I may have been put off by them (Geneva Towers residents) but that was before I got to know them.'

"After the funding dried up because of a split over requesting grant renewal from the San Francisco Foundation by the board of the fiscal agent, training was cut off. APC was left with an incompletely trained staff not yet ready to take on the enormous burden of holding the whole thing together.

"Gary Yoes was able to get some Law Enforcement Administrative Act (LEAA) money which kept APC afloat for sometime, but gradually leadership waned and APC's back was broken."

Miller is currently the executive director of Organize Training Center, Inc. in San Francisco which provides training for organizers and community leaders. He will write a series of articles for the GRAPEVINE on community organizing and problem solving.


Gatti,
from page 5

Nguyen can be reached at 673-2169, and Borges at 539-5599.

Collin J. Russell and his partner, Bruce Bonacker, displayed their initial architectural drafts on the project during a press conference/executive meeting in August. Their original plan to build nine models was amended to use only four or five models.

Each unit, regardless of the type of construction, will be a three-bedroom, two-car garage affair. Coming as high as 4,329 square feet, and as low as 1,704 square feet in the original estimate, the units have fairly equated footage, and the average size 1,800 to 2,200 square feet.

Anyone interested in taking a quick look at the JFK property will find it easy to find the lot. It is bound on the south by Sunnydale, on the north by Visitacion Avenue, on the west by Britton, and east, by Loehr Street.



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Visitation Valley Community Center sponsors the Child Care Food Program for children who are enrolled in its programs. All children in attendance are offered the same meals at no separate charge. The program guarantees that no physical segregation or other discrimination against any child because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap will occur. For more information, please contact Laeh Weidenhofer or Cheryl Palmer-Babbs at 415-467-6400.

Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 16:
Heartsaver CPR class
Holy Name of Jesus
Church, 3240 Lawton St.
1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Call
665-9526 after 6 p.m.

St. James Presbyterian
Church women, 240
Leland Avenue are holding
their annual boutique and
luncheon, Saturday, Nov. 5
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Everyone welcome.

Visitacion Valley
Elementary school open
house, Oct. 6, 7 - 8 p.m.

Visitation Valley
Elementary after-school
Camp Fire Club starts
Oct. 11, 2:30 - 5 p.m.
every Tuesday and
Thursday. Applications
open to grades 2nd - 8th.
Forms may be picked up
at the school. Call 239-
1069 for information.
Financial help available
regarding dues.

Jr. Visitation Valley
Alive
Club meets Oct. 8, 10 a.m.
- 2 p.m., at the Leland
Avenue bungalows to
weed school garden.
Bring your lunch, soft
drinks provided.

Visitacion Valley
Improvement Association
meets Oct. 28 we will
have some candidates
running for office. Come
and hear their promises.
Visitacion Valley
Community Center at 7
p.m.

Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 25
Belly dancing class at
VVCC, 50 Raymond
Avenue. 6 - 7 p.m.

Oct. 6, Public hearing at Department of Social Services on Social Services priorities in the 1990's. 4 p.m. at Born Auditorium, 170 Otis Street, San Francisco 557-6431 (DSS) or 641-4362 (Coleman Advocates).

Oct. 18, Children's Budget Symposium at 1187 Franklin Street (at Geary) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sponsored by Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. 641-4362.

Oct. 31 Halloween. Have a safe one, give a children's Halloween party instead of trick-or-treating.



Saturday October 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday October 30, 12 noon - 4 p.m.

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Dear Community,

Vacation is over! Let's get back to work! I sincerely hope you all had a fine vacation and now plan to help the club in its efforts for valley improvement.

What we need most is officers. If you have some spare time, please contact your president.

On our Oct. 28 meeting, we will have some Candidates running for office. Come and hear their promises.

Friday, Nov. 18 (change of date) Turkey Bingo.

December - No Meeting

Friday, Jan. 27 - some of our new supervisors will attend.

Henry Schindel
President

P.S. Public invited to attend; meetings are on every 4th Friday of each month, at the Visitacion Valley Community Center, 60 Raymond Avenue. Dues are only \$2 per year. Refreshments after each meeting.

Election,
from page 1

and set up after-school recreation and athletic programs.

Proponents state that, unless this measure passes, the fund which was aproved by voters in 1974 will expire June 30, 1990. Foes of Prop. E call this measure a tax and find it useless, calling for the expansion and improvement of existing parks.

Proposition O
- two-term limit

Prop. O would change the city charter to state that city supervisors may only serve for two terms.

Supporters of this proposition say that it will create a more honest government and state "Entrenched politicians are concerned with their own interest and welfare, not yours."

Opponents state that the proposition, if passed will cause "A full year of political chaos." They go on to say that "elections are the way to solve political differences; not an extreme and cynical recall."

Proposition R
- The Missiouri

Prop. R calls for the renegotiation of the homeporting of the USS Missouri in San Francisco, asking the Department of Defense to pay the entire bill of dredging the bay for the nuclear ship.

The proposition also calls for a guarantee of 351 new jobs to be created by the homeporting and that these jobs be given to qualified San Francisco residents.

Dubbed the "Trojan Horse Initiative" by opponents, Prop. R, they state is "designed to look like an appealing pro-Missouri

proposal - Prop. R is filled with conditions that actually kill the publicly supported efforts to bring home the Missouri."

The supporting arguement for the bill does not sound much like one. In it, San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos states, he wants to "make sure that you recognize that your vote to bring the Missouri here means spending city dollars to pay to bring the Missouri here. And that will mean the money must be taken from other city services."

Proposition S
- more Missouri

Prop. S is also a Missouri initiative. This one, however, calls for the implimentation of "the non-binding 1987 Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Navy to homeport the USS Missouri in San Francisco."

The Board of Supervisors, who wrote the arguement for the initiative say that the homeporting of the Missouri will bring jobs, economic benefits and much needed revenue to the city without harming the environment.

Agnos, holding the opposing view, writes, "Look at the Memorandum of Understanding. It says plainly... we pay all the hard costs, they pay no taxes, and we provide them with city services, free...."

Proposition U
- vacancy control

Shall the City's rent control ordinance be ammended to apply to vacant residential units?

This is the question raised by Prop. U. The opponents of this initiative say that it will penalize the small landlord, the fair landlord, and that the city will lose tens of millions of dollars per year. Supporters contend that the ammendment to the rent control ordinance will keep the rental proerties in the City as affordable as possible.

Tenants,
from page 1

Sunnydale on motorcycles, and they will continue to patrol indefinitely. Jones also suggested several tactics that might help relieve the situation. He will hold a police community relations meeting in the near future; a Neighborhood Watch/SAFE program could be instituted which would organize Sunnydale tenants for mutual assistance.

Sunnydale tenants want their own security force on duty 24 hours each day, and they want a 24 hour patrol car for high visibility.

One of the good things happening in Sunnydale is the tutoring class on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Open to school-age children living in the project and supervised by Mothers and Fathers of Concern, more than 35 kids attend the sessions beginning at 6 p.m.

Grapevine Puzzler

SOLUTION NEXT ISSUE

OUR HISTORY - I

CREATED BY ANNE KAARTUNEN

Words may overlap and letters may be used more than once.

NYFIRSTURORUNC
EADLEECOASRIHS
ERPPTVCEOTRSNJ
TYEOEEURSEHEAJ
NRNPENYTWUDCAS
EOURNTIHNROBCS
VRTCTYCAABCHLY
EFISKSHGPBOLEA
SEASHELLPOINTR
HXNENVESLMOIWD
PEOPLEASDBMIUC
NWHCSNSNEDNRCK
SERENFIHISTORY
EDRAGWTSIXMILE

PUZZLER WORD LIST

COAST
PEOPLE (COASTANOAN INDIANS)
PENUTIAN (LANGUAGE)
SEA SHELL POINT (1775, NOW HUNTERS POINT)
SEVENTEEN
SEVENTY SEVEN (1777, NAMED VISITACION VALLEY)
JACOB P. LEESE (1839, 1ST LAND GRANT)
H. SCHWERIN (1850, LAND OWNER)
TRUCK
GARDENS (1850, AND...)
WINDMILLS (FOR IRRIGATION)
INDUSTRY (1876, SILK CO.)
"THE BONE...
YARD" (1890, FERTILIZER CO)
"SIX MILE"
HOUSE"
"FIRST...
SCHOOL" (1896)
OUR
HISTORY

(Next Issue - "part II)

September Issue... missing word "staff"

Newspaper group formed, meets with Agnos, Marks

By Pat Christensen

Your GRAPEVINE is one of the founding members of the newly formed San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association (SFNNA). The GRAPEVINE is joined in this association by nine other community newspapers.

Eleven autonomous newspapers covering most of San Francisco's neighborhoods have joined together to form a base of power and a collective which should be attractive to major advertisers such as banks, savings and loans, and consumer product distributors. The GRAPEVINE should benefit financially and from other resources such as buying power, feature material, and especially access to City Hall.

On Monday, Sept. 12, the association members were guests of Mayor Art Agnos. The following Wednesday, we were invited to meet with Senator Milton Marks for breakfast in his home. This type of close communication between elected officials and your newspaper will promote the best interests of Visitacion

Valley and Portola giving us a known voice in City Hall.

Some of the issues discussed with Mayor Agnos And Senator Marks were commercial rents, control of the city's public housing, homeless and hungry people, the downtown stadium, homeporting of the USS Missouri, graffiti, muni and restoration of the Mayor's Inservice Youth Program (MISY).

The Mayor's responses to these and other important questions are reported elsewhere in this issue. Mayor Agnos has invited the SFNNA back on a quarterly basis to talk about San Francisco's problems. Your GRAPEVINE representatives want to know how you feel, what you would like to say to San Francisco's mayor. We offer you a voice in City Hall.

Write your concerns, questions, and don't forget your compliments to Editor, Visitacion Valley GRAPEVINE, and we will deliver your message personally to Mayor Art Agnos.

Mayor, from page 1

faces for San Francisco, some of his answers to our questions were not satisfactory, but they probably were realistic.

In many cases, the mayor challenged San Franciscans to get involved and begin policing their own neighborhoods and reporting infractions of the law to the police department.

In answer to the graffiti and vehicular resident problems and the "commonization" of the neighborhoods, the mayor referred to specific laws which govern these cases and that it is up to citizens to demand enforcement.

He says that he believes that many so-called homeless this summer were simply college students who came to San Francisco for the summer and found their vehicles convenient and cheap living quarters.

When asked what he intends to do about Sunnydale and the other housing projects where residents are continually threatened, his answer was less than satisfactory. "First," he said, "we must find a replacement for Jim Clay (retired Housing Authority director), and a nationwide search is in process. No one seems to want the job. Then after the director is in place, the Housing Authority and the Housing Commission will address the problems of law enforcement, social programs, good

management, job training and employment.

Agnos contends that the federal government won't acknowledge the problem and so will not provide funds.

The mayor advises the tenants to get involved. Alternatives for the projects, he suggests, might be tenant management or tenant ownership; however, Agnos emphasizes that he needs money to deal with the hard-core issues affecting low-income housing projects and the homeless.

Vacancy Control

He cited an initiative which Supervisor Harry Britt has prepared which offers "greater flexibility for raising rents at the time a vacancy occurs; a strong 'good landlord' provision which

Missouri Homeporting

Agnos believes that the Missouri issue indicates "misplaced priorities." The Navy owns Hunters Point Shipyard and the sea lanes. They can bring a ship in anytime they want.

"The Navy has cut their budget by dispersing ships around the country requiring the communities to bear the expense," contends Agnos. "The Navy offers only 350 jobs, mostly secretarial and janitorial." He posed the question about whether sailors boost the economy or do they cost the taxpayers more money than they bring in by necessitating increased law enforcement and social services.

"The Navy will require from San Francisco \$2,000,000 worth of dredging annually, and they will kick out small businesses and artists (the largest colony in the United States) who are taxpayers.

Downtown Stadium

"I'm committed to the idea," stated Agnos, "but I would like to see a good faith effort to explore the possibilities to see if we could come up with answers to questions like financing, environmental impact, and the type of structure which would have greater use than just a ballpark. San Francisco is not competitive for conventions because our facilities are inadequate. We probably need an arena where basketball, hockey, concerts and conventions could be comfortably staged. I would like to explore private financing. And I definitely want to keep the Giants here."

Mayor Agnos invited SFNNA to meet with him "about every three months" in a similar format so that he can keep in touch with the neighborhoods.

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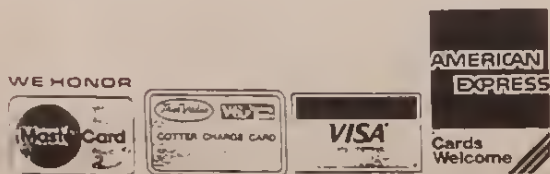
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